In Ray Bradbury’s book, “Fahrenheit 451”, several main ideas are expressed through the lifestyle of society. Though ignorance, conformity, corruption, and censorship are all evident themes, they can all be summed up into oppression that the government desires for the people. An increase in knowledge results in questioning, mainly of authority and control. This book focuses on the means that the government uses to silence the voice of society by eliminating their source of knowledge in order to obtain and maintain total control.

In this novel it shows how people lived in a society that was corrupt and displayed a set way of life for the people. This is like setting up robots to do certain things. The example in the book was Millie Montag just going along with everything that she is told. They had the technology to keep them entertained that she didn’t care about anything but her TV set. Through busyness and technology they are occupied. This is why the questioning of the firemen’s job of burning books was never initiated. Everything was set up in a way that even the dog in the firehouse was a robot, sensing people against government ways.

They used scare tactics to help the other theme surface which is conformity. Through depleting the knowledge, it allowed each individual person not to think in their own way, but as the government wanted so there would be no questioning of authority. The government in this novel is very corrupt in that they do things to hide what they should be supporting (books) but are willing to make everyone or try to make everyone ignorant, which is another theme the author displays of how many just believed, instead of finding out what is really true. As far as censorship goes, a small problem is never heard, especially if it could get worse. It is always referred to as a crisis because of the blockade of trying to make everyone comfortable with no problems. This in itself is a bigger problem because if you can help deal with it and suffer a little, then you can prepare yourself with ways to prevent the problem. If it is not dealt with then it will explode one day and then no one is really prepared for the consequences which are unexpected. When Guy Montag meets Clarisse, he then starts to ask questions about the burning of the books and sociality and what it means. Guy Montag was just going with the flow because someone on a higher level told him to do it. A lot of the times people do things out of ritual, and don’t even know why or how the process works because someone just told them to do it.

The control that the government had on the people in the book, are very similar in aspects of theme. The root theme which I think is control would make a lot of the other things stand out. Conformity is used just to make the people be exactly alike in thought so that they won’t think that there could be a different way of life. Through corruption is when they get desperate to hid things or leak anything that would challenge their authority. This is when the censorship takes place to cover up the corruption that is taking place in our government. The resources that we have in America make us spoiled and that is another theme that Bradbury tried to get out there. In a fast paced type of environment where everything and everyone is just going 100 miles an hour it is hard to stop and think or just read a book, and still keep up with everyone else around you. This is the main point, you will have to give up something like a sacrifice in order to gain knowledge or read books. In the US, we as Americans are fearful to speak out and give their opinion against the government because of suspension of some laws, like in my class notes in history tells that in the past when people spoke out the president would suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Also revealed is the Kent State Massacre which they tried to protest the war and the Ohio State National Guard killed 4 students (History, Mr. Carver, Class Notes). No one likes to be challenged because it’s like you’re the champion and you have to lower yourself down to something which you don’t think matters, because you’re the best, and it feels as though there not even worthy to compete with you. It is almost like the government is saying, how dare you challenge my authority? So they promote the fear, censorship, and also others things to occupy the time so that the truth is diluted and not strong enough to react.

In the collage, there are several pictures depicting the different themes in the story. In the upper left hand corner the picture with the” big brother is watching you” is about the book 1984 which explains how the government is always watching you. In the upper far right hand corner talks show politician in a bottle which is intended to be an absolute vodka bottle but it says, “Absolute corruption”. The next set of pictures about theme is his point that technology contributes to the fast pace and multi tasking ways of life. So the pictures of the Ipod video, myspace.com, the office represents the TV shows, the video games live suggesting online video games, the TV that says, “I OWN YOU”, the many movies like the stack of DVD’s and also to be specific movies with no meaning (educationally) Billy Madison, the computer screen, the video games pictures that says, “ why waste good technology on Science and Medicine, and the time consuming game Grand Theft Auto. All these pictures represent things that take up time instead of reading a book or studying up on things that bring forth more positive time. As far as the theme conformity I have a pack of zebras together all jumbled together that shows that you can’t tell the difference between any of them. Another picture is the group of Korean soldiers lined up not telling the difference between anyone of them. Also the robots at the bottom of the page that came from an old comic, has a group a robots with mask’s on and they all look identical but one is in the middle that stands out but they are trying to get the robot to “Conform” as it is said at the top. The other group of picture that I have is ones dealing with censorship. The first is a man with his mouth covered with a bandana or something, and a similar one to that is a woman with her mouth being covered but with an American flag. The other one is a man with his eyes and mouth covered intended that he can’t see of talk but just listen to everything he is being told and to believe it. Lastly, I have pictures that depict ignorance. The first is an old man that says, “Ha, ha, I’m using the internet, insinuating that he is proud that he has the internet for all his information. The other is a group of people rowing a canoe and it depicts teamwork but the caption says, “It’s amazing how much easier it is for a team to work together when no one has any idea where they’re going.” This show’s that people will come together and do something but are so occupied of helping out and getting going that the main goal of where they are going was never asked.